

# The African Union Commission: Departments and Officials

**C e n t r e f o r C i t i z e n s ' p a r t i c i p a t i o n o n t h e  
A f r i c a n U n i o n**

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## INTRODUCTION

According to the Constitutive Act, the AUC, which is the functional Secretariat of the AU is composed of a Chairperson, his/her deputy(ies), Commissioners and staff. Broadly, the Commission initiates policy and budget proposals for consideration by other AU organs and is responsible for implementing the decisions of the PRC, Executive Council of Ministers and Assembly. It also provides operational support to the Peace and Security Council, ECOSOCC, the Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and other AU activities.

The AUC Strategic Plan (2009-2012) sets out the Strategic Direction and defines the Vision of the African Union, the Mission and core values of the AUC and stakeholder expectations. It further deals with the Strategic Pillars that have been drawn from the Commission's mandate, Mission, stakeholder expectations, assessment of the external and internal environment and SWOT analysis. Subsequently, the Commission has identified four broad intervention areas or strategic pillars:

1. Peace and Security;
2. Integration, Development and Cooperation;
3. Shared Values; and,

4. Institution and Capacity Building.

The pillars are strategic issues around which the core business of the Commission will be organised, and resources applied for the realisation of expected results. The Commission will subsequently develop and roll out interdepartmental and cross-sectoral programmes for each pillar to ensure a holistic and integrated approach.

With the objective of undertaking a result based approach, the Commission will implement programmes under each Pillar as follows:

- Programme on Peace and Security;
- Programme on Development;
- Programme on Integration;
- Programme on Co-operation;
- Programme on Shared Values; and
- Programme on Institution and Capacity Building.

In the following section, a summary of the strategic objectives, and the expected results, along with the responsible actors is outlined.



## THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMMES AND ACTORS RESPONSIBLE<sup>1</sup>

### 1. PEACE AND SECURITY

#### Actors:

- Department of Peace and Security,
- Department of Political Affairs,
- Department of Social Affairs,
- Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture,
- Department of Infrastructure and Energy.

#### Strategic Objectives:

*Reduce conflicts to achieve continental security and stability.*

- Fully operationalise the AU Peace and Security Architecture (APSA);
- Facilitate the development of a programme on conflict prevention, management and resolution;
- Promote the Common African Defense and Security Policy (CADSP);
- Promote and coordinate programmes on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCED).

*Achieve the necessary continental security and stability as a prerequisite for development and Integration of Africa.*

- Promote the development and stabilization of security, political and economic systems;
- Promote the development of continental social and environmental management systems;
- Promote the policy on combating transnational organized crime.

#### Expected Results:

- Fully functional APSA;
- Programmes on conflict prevention, management and resolution developed and implemented;
- Significantly reduced conflicts on the continent;
- The PCRCD policy operationalized;

- Implementation of the Common African Defense and Security Policy by Member States facilitated;
- Developed of continental social and environmental management systems promoted;
- Developed of the policy on combating transnational organization crime promoted;
- Development of the policy on combating transnational organized crime promoted.

### 2. DEVELOPMENT, INTEGRATION AND COOPERATION

#### Actors:

- Department of Social Affairs,
- Department of Political Affairs,
- Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture,
- Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology,
- Department of Economic Affairs,
- Women, Gender and Development Directorate,
- Department of Trade and Industry,
- Department of Infrastructure and Energy,
- Conference Services Directorate,
- Bureau of the Chairperson,
- Strategic Planning, Policy Monitoring, Evaluation and Resource Mobilisation

#### Strategic Objectives:

*Promote sustainable economic development*

- Promote the growth of intra-African trade and investments;
- Accelerate infrastructure development with emphasis on interconnectivity, reliability and cost effectiveness;
- Promote diversified industrialization with emphasis on Value Addition;
- Establish a continental standards and quality

<sup>1</sup> Driven from the AUC Strategic Plan 2009-2012, pages 42-48

assurances mechanism;

- Promote agricultural development and food security through CAADP;
- Promote the development of the African private sector and the informal economy;
- Development and implement programmes on productivity improvement;
- Develop and implement programmes on competitiveness;
- Promote effective environmental and Natural Resource Management (NRM), including climate change;
- Establish mechanisms for the development and stabilization of Financial markets.

#### ***Promote sustainable social and human development***

- Develop and sustain human capabilities through increased access to health, education, nutrition, shelter and sanitation, and employment;
- Promote youth development and women empowerment;
- Promote policies and programmes on migration and combating human and drug trafficking;
- Promote policies and programmes on sports and the development and promotion of cultural and creative industries;
- Promote social welfare and protection of Vulnerable Groups (CVGs);
- Promote the achievement of the MDGs.

#### ***Formulate frameworks for developing and sharing Africa's Statistics, and Research & Development capacities***

- Support the development of institutions for promotion of technological inventions, innovations and indigenous know-how;
- Promote and coordinate Research & Development initiatives amongst Member States;
- Promote the dissemination of R & D findings among Member States;
- Develop and implement programmes to strengthen statistical data collection, analysis and dissemination capabilities of Member States and the RECs.

#### ***Strengthen continental integration***

- Promote implementation of the MIP;
- Facilitate the rationalization and harmonization of the RECs;
- Promote free movement of people, goods, capital and services as well as the build continent-wide human networks.

#### ***Build and strengthen continental and global cooperation***

- Promote the growth the intra-African cooperation;
- Establish and promote global strategic partnerships for Africa;
- Promote African common positions in multi-lateral and regional for a including WTO and EPS negotiations.

#### **Expected Results:**

- African productivity and competitiveness improved;
- Infrastructure development with emphasis on interconnectivity, reliability and cost effectiveness is enhanced;
- Diversified industrialization with emphasis on Value Additions promoted;
- A continental standards and quality assurances mechanisms established;
- Agricultural development and food security is promoted;
- Development of African private sector and informal economy is promoted;
- Policies and mechanisms for climate change and NRM developed;
- Programmes on sustained human capabilities through increased access to health, education, nutrition, shelter and sanitation, and employment implemented;
- Programmes for youth development and women empowerment implemented;
- Policies and programmes on migration and combating human and drug trafficking promoted;
- Policies and programmes on cultural and creative industries, and sport promoted;

- Programmes on social welfare and protection of Vulnerable Groups (VGs) implemented;
- A framework for development and dissemination of technologies developed including the setting
- up of appropriate institutions;
- Programmes to strengthen statistical data collection, analysis and dissemination capabilities of Member States and the RECs developed and implemented;
- Implementation of Minimum Integration Programme (MIP) accelerated;
- Rationalization and harmonization of RECs facilitated;
- Free movement of people, goods, capital and services improved;
- Intra-African Cooperation enhanced;
- Global strategic partnerships established and strengthened;
- Africa Common Positions multi-lateral for a including WTO and EPAs are articulated;
- Progress made on meeting MDG targets.

### 3. SHARED VALUES

#### Actors:

- Department of Political Affairs,
- Department of Social Affairs,
- Department of Trade and Industry,
- Department of Infrastructure and Energy,
- Women, Gender and Development Directorate,
- Citizens' and Diaspora Directorate,
- Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture,
- Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology,
- Conference Services Directorate,
- Office of the Legal Counsel,
- Department of Peace and Security,
- Directorate of Information and Communications,
- Department of Medical Services

#### Strategic Objectives:

##### *Promote good governance, democracy and human rights*

- Promote and facilitate establishment of the appropriate architecture for the promotion of good governance and democracy;
- Strengthen and facilitate the development of coordinated continental human rights promotion and protection systems;
- Promote a rights-based approach to development, including social, economic, cultural and environmental rights.

##### *Strengthen the Africa-wide humanitarian response and action*

- Develop and facilitate implementation of an Africa-wide humanitarian policy;
- Develop and facilitate implementation of Disaster and Emergency Preparedness and Management Frameworks.

##### *Promote Inter-African solidarity*

- Promote a sense of common destiny, identity and togetherness amongst the people of Africa;
- Strengthen the mechanisms for mutual assistance among Member States and the people of Africa.

##### *Promote African Cultural Renaissance and the protection of African cultural heritage*

- Develop and implement programmes for the promotion and protection of African culture, languages and heritage;
- Organize, coordinate and harmonize activities that project the correct African image;
- Promote cultural diversity including multiculturalism and multi-lingualism.

##### *Promote the active participation and contribution of all segments of African society in Africa's development and integration*

- Develop and implement programmes for the promotion of active participation and contribution of all segments of the African society and Africans in the Diaspora in Africa's development and integration;
- Promote African Young Volunteers programmes;

- Promote and facilitate the development and implementation of African Union Model for the youth

***Promote the ratification and entry into force of all outstanding legal instruments adopted by the AU Assembly***

- Develop benchmarks and timelines for the effective enforcement of outstanding legal instruments by Member States;
- Promote the ratification and domestication of legal instruments;
- Raise awareness of existing legal instruments.

***Promote gender equality***

- Promote the development and effective implementation of gender policies in Member States, RECs and AU organs;
- Promote programmes to combat gender based violence including harmful traditional practices;
- Promote the full and active participation of women in all AU programmes, as well as in Member States.

**Expected Results:**

- Appropriate architecture for the promotion of good governance and democracy, including the APRM established and implemented;
- Continental human rights promotion and protection systems established;
- A rights-based approach to development, including social, economic, cultural and environmental rights promoted;
- Africa-wide Humanitarian Policy developed and implemented;
- Disaster and Emergency Preparedness and Management Frameworks developed and implemented;
- A sense of common destiny, identity and togetherness amongst the people of Africa promoted;
- Mechanisms for mutual assistance among Member States and the people of Africa established;
- Programmes for promotion and protection of African culture, languages and heritage imple-

mented;

- Activities that project the correct image of Africa are organized;
- Cultural diversity including multiculturalism and multilingualism promoted;
- All segments of the African society including the Diaspora participate in African solidarity, development and integration;
- African Young Volunteer programmes developed and implemented;
- The development and implementation of the African Union Model for young Africans achieved;
- All outstanding legal instruments ratified and domesticated, and are well-known by the Africa people;
- The development and effective implementation of gender policies in Member States, RECs and AU
- Organs is promoted;
- Programmes to combat gender based violence including harmful traditional practices developed and implemented by Member States;
- The active participation of women in all AU programmes, as well as in Member States is promoted.

## **4. INSTITUTION AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

**Actors:**

- Bureau of the Deputy Chairperson,
- Bureau of the Chairperson,
- Strategic Planning, Policy Monitoring, Evaluation and Resource Mobilisation
- Administration and Human Resource Department
- Programming, Budget, Finance and Accounting
- Office of the Internal Auditor
- Citizens' and Diaspora Directorate,
- Directorate of Information and Communications,



- Department of Medical Services,
- MIS,
- Department of Economic Affairs,
- Department of Trade and Industry,
- Conference Services Directorate,
- Women, Gender and Development Directorate,
- Peace Support Operations

### **Strategic Objectives:**

#### *Strengthen the capacity and enhance the operational efficiency and effectiveness of the African Union Commission*

- Develop an effective Human Resource Management reform programme;
- Ensure accountability and adopt Results-Based Management (RBM) practices;
- Mainstream gender into all programmes and policies of the Commission;
- Develop lean and effective administrative support services;
- Ensure effective and efficient delivery of medical services;
- Ensure effective and efficient delivery of conference services;
- Ensure improved communication;
- Change the organizational culture and management practices, and promote team work;
- Improve the working environment including physical infrastructure and recreational facilities;
- Facilitate the implementation of the AU Headquarter/Host Agreement by acting as the protocol interface between the AU Organs, RECs, and Member States;
- Implement an improved financial management system, including programme-based budgeting system (Medium -Term Expenditure Framework - MTEF);
- Ensure greater inter-departmental collaboration and cooperation;
- Provide high quality, responsive, innovative and cost-effective ICT services.

#### *Promote synergies, linkages and good working relations with all AU Organs*

- Facilitate and support the operationalization of all AU Organs;
- Facilitate establishment of the Financial Institutions;
- Develop a clear engagement framework for ECOSOCC;
- Develop a framework for regular interaction and effective communication with other AU organs.

#### *Promote effective cooperation and collaboration with Member States and RECs*

- Enhance the framework for regular dialogue and exchange with Member States;
- Implement the Protocol on Member States and RECs;
- Strengthen the Commission's capacity to coordinate RECs and promote intra-regional best practices.

#### *Promote strategic partnerships for leveraging sustainable sources of funding and comparative advantages*

- Strengthen the Joint AUC, AfDB, ECA Secretariat;
- Develop and implement a framework for effective collaboration with multilateral agencies, strategic and development partners;
- Develop and implement an internal framework for harmonization and coordination of relations with partners.

### **Expected Results:**

- An effective Human Resource Management reform program is implemented;
- RBM is institutionalized;
- Gender mainstreamed into all programmes and policies of the Commission;
- Lean and effective administrative support services put in place;
- Effective and efficient medical services delivered;
- Effective and efficient conference services delivered;
- Improved communication;

## STRUCTURE OF THE COMMISSION: BUREAU OF THE CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson of the Commission is elected by the Heads of State and Government for a five year term and reports to the Executive Council of Ministers. The following three offices fall under this Bureau:

### 1. OFFICE OF THE LEGAL COUNSEL

The current establishment for the Office of the Legal Counsel as approved by the Third Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Sun City in May 2003 is for a staff complement of six professional staff including one documentalist, and supported by three general service staff.

Its legislative authorities are drawn from:

- Decision AHG/Dec. 143 (XXXVI) on the adoption the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
- Resolution AHG/Res.161 (XXIII), AHG/Res.179 (XXV), CM/Res.1251 (LI) and AHG/Res.190 (XXVI) on the establishment of the African Economic Community;

The Office is entrusted with:

- Providing legal advice and opinions to the Chairperson of the Commission and all Directorates, Services and Units of the Commission of the African Union;
- Providing legal advice to all organs of the Union, particularly the policy organs;
- Providing technical backstopping in all meetings of the Union whenever issues of a legal nature arise;
- Representing the Union in all meetings of a legal nature;
- Drafting treaties, cooperation agree-

ments, host agreements, rules of procedure;

- Vetting and clearing all contracts before they are signed;
- Ensuring that the privileges and immunities of the organization and staff are protected;
- Providing interpretation of all treaties, agreements and other legal instruments;
- Carrying out Legal Research and Codification;
- Performing depositary functions on behalf of the Chairperson of the Commission in respect of all the AU treaties.

Under the direction and supervision of the Chairperson, the Legal Counsel and his/her office perform the following duties:

- To catalogue decisions taken by the AU Policy Organs to ensure effective follow-up;
- To provide legal advice to all Departments of the Commission and Representational Offices in order to ensure legality in decision making and compliance with the Constitutive Act, the AEC Treaty and other treaties and legal instruments of the AU;
- To ensure that all decisions and actions undertaken by the AU Policy Organs are in conformity with the provisions of the Constitutive Act, the AEC Treaty and other treaties and legal instruments;
- To ensure that the legal interaction between the Commission and Member States, other organizations, individuals and other legal entities are regulated in such a manner that the interests of the Union are safeguarded;

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#### Head of Gender Analysis and Monitoring Division

**Mrs. Leila Ben Ali**

- To ensure that the privileges and immunities granted to the Union and its staff, and representatives accredited to it are assured and protected as provided for in the Headquarters Agreements and the General Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the OAU;
- To advise on and coordinate the preparation and elaboration of draft treaties and conventions as well as cooperation agreements for approval by the policy organs;
- To prepare host agreements for hosting AU meetings, conferences, etc;

Recent activities of the Office revolve around:

- COMESA Court of Justice Publicity Seminar
- ICC-AU Joint Seminar on Technical Aspects of the Rome Statute.
- Election of the Members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights .
- Fifth Meeting of Government Experts on the Transformation of the AU Commission into AU Authority and Meeting of Ministers of Justice/Attorneys General or any other Relevant Ministers
- Election of a Member of the African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL).
- Identifying AU Member States committed to the Transformation of the Commission into an Authority.

## 2. WOMEN, GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

Article 4(1) of the Constitutive Act mandates the Union to function in accordance with the principle of "promotion of gender equality". According to Article 8 of the Statutes of

the Commission of the Union, ultimate responsibility for gender mainstreaming within the Commission lies with the Chairperson. Article 12(3) of the Statute provides that a mechanism "shall be established in the Office of the Chairperson to coordinate all activities and programmes of the Commission related to gender issues". The Women, Gender and Development Directorate, (Gender Directorate) is that mechanism - it is the vehicle via which the Commission advances the principle of gender equality through gender mainstreaming.

The general objective of the gender programme of the AU is to redress the inequities inherent in such a situation, and thereby ensure that women and men have equal access to factors needed for their equal and unhindered participation in development and other processes that shape and define their conditions of life and work.

The AU gender programme involves both stand-alone women's empowerment programmes, as well as programmes to incorporate gender into all the activities of the Commission. In this regard, the Gender Directorate has a two-fold approach to its work. First, a women-targeted women-in-development approach which recognises that women are starting from a more disadvantaged position than men, and, therefore, seeks to remove the obstacles that women suffer. This is in order to empower women so as to enable them to compete on a level of equality with men. The second is a more holistic, all-encompassing gender-and-development approach, which seeks to ensure that women are part of mainstream activities as equal stakeholders with men.

The first approach involves activities that include specialist women's empowerment programmes such as women and education; women and health; women and poverty eradication; women in agriculture; women, trade and the economy; women in the peace process; women in politics and decision-making; the gender dimensions of ageing, and women within the



NEPAD process, among others.

The second approach involves activities directed at ensuring that the Commission takes gender into consideration in all its work, so that the needs of both women and men are taken into consideration across the whole spectrum of AU activities, so as to enable both men and women to benefit equally.

In line with the preferred approach of the gender programme of the Commission, the core functions of the Gender Directorate are:

- gender mainstreaming;
- coordination;
- advocacy;
- policy;
- performance tracking, monitoring and evaluation;
- gender training and capacity building; research;
- communication, networking and liaison.

The Gender Directorate continues to follow-up on, and consolidate, activities that have been successfully pursued by the OAU in the past. These include, among others,

- the AU Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing;
- the Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;
- the Addis Ababa Declaration on the Eradication of Harmful Traditional Practices;
- the African Women Committee on Peace and Development;
- the Plan of Action on Enhancing the Participation of Refugee, Returnee and Internally Displaced Women and Children in Post-Conflict Reinte-

gration, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Peace Building; and

- the Kampala Declaration and Plan of Action on the Empowerment of Women Through Functional Literacy and Education of the Girl-Child.

Recent activities of the directorate are focused on:

- Announcement and Call for Proposals for the Theme: Health, Maternal Mortality and HIV/AIDS
- Mission to the Sudan by Women Ambassadors Accredited to the African Union
- Commemoration of the International Women's Day 8th March 2011.
- Outlining Strategic Areas of Collaboration with UN women.
- The African Women's Decade Theme: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE): a Bottom Up Approach.

### 3. THE CITIZENS' AND DIASPORA DIRECTORATE

The African Citizens' and Diaspora Directorate, located in the Office of the Chairperson, is the official liaison office for civil society organizations from Africa or the African Diaspora wishing to interact with the Commission. CIDO is responsible for accrediting NGOs to attend summits and other meetings and acts also as the secretariat for ECOSOCC, the AU's civil society organ.

Quite recently it had facilitated the finalisation of Decisions of the Sixth Ordinary Session of the Standing Committee of the Permanent General Assembly of ECOSOCC. The objectives of the meeting were:

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**Expert, Diaspora Relations**

**Mr Wuyi Omitoogun**

## Office of the Deputy Chairperson

### Deputy Chairperson

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- to finalise and consolidate the report of the Standing Committee to Council as per Article 10. 2 (d) of the ECOSOCC Statutes;
- to consider framework and opportunities for Diaspora participation in ECOSOCC and increased engagement with structures and process of the African Union;
- to review steps and activities that have been taken to implement deci-

sions taken by the 5th Ordinary Session held in Yaoundé from 8-9 April 2011.

## OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

### 1. DIRECTORATE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

#### Mandate

To plan, develop and manage human resources for optimal organisational performance and implement action on staff policies and regulations; provide efficient and timely core services, procure and manage human resources for all Directorates and Offices of the Commission in order to facilitate their smooth functioning.

#### Core Function

- develop, manage and implement administrative policies;
- initiate and develop administrative rules and procedures;
- promote awareness of best practices in administrative procedures;
- initiate, propose and manage human resource policies taking into account gender and other considerations;
- ensure a fair and efficient performance appraisal system including the enforcement of staff discipline;
- develop, manage policy on medical services as well as provide effective outpatient clinical services drawing on adequate diagnostic services ;
- initiate, develop and manage a reli-

able Management Information System (MIS) policy;

- design and manage a reliable transport and inventory system;
- refurbish, build and maintain buildings;
- initiate manage and maintain an effective security system for property and staff;
- initiate, design, and manage a modern Library Services;
- design and maintain an archival system for the Commission and AU Organs;
- provide an efficient Registry Service;
- ensure a smooth coordination framework for the administrative staff.

### 2. DIRECTORATE FOR CONFERENCE SERVICES

The Directorate's mandate is to provide, plan and manage Conference Services for the Commission and when necessary for other Organs of the Union as well as to print and reproduce all documents of the Commission.

Its core functions are:

- To plan, organize and service conferences and meetings of the AU

and its Organs;

- To determine and provide such conference needs as
  - Interpretation, translation, editing and proof-reading of policy and technical documents, as well as reports;p
  - printing and reproducing all documents of the Commission
- To develop a system for the efficient storage, control and distribution of documents before, during and after conferences and meetings of the AU;
- To identify the technical and material resources needed to service conferences;
- To ensure that there is a venue and documents for the meeting;
- To circulate documents for meetings and conferences;
- To ensure safe keeping of documents.

### 3. DIRECTORATE FOR PROGRAMMING, BUDGETING, FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING

**The Directorate's mandate is:**

- to plan, develop and implement Financial Accounting policies and policy
- To execute Budgetary Programmes, Rules, Regulations and Procedure. The Directorate also collects and manages statutory and other funds owed to the African Union.
- To ensure inter-departmental coordination in programming and the budgetary process, as well as to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of programmes in realizing organizational goals and objectives

**Core functions:**

- To prepare integrated programmes of overall operational activities and projects;

- To prepare and issue instructions relating to budget preparation;
- To conduct and monitor the process of budget preparation;
- To prepare the programme budget of the Commission and follow up its implementation;
- To organise coordination meetings on programming and budgeting;
- to propose training programmes relating to programme designing, programme coordination, and budget preparation;
- To manage the Programme Budget of the Commission;
- To initiate, propose, manage and implement financial policies;
- To develop, maintain financial and accounting rules and procedures;
- To promote awareness of best practices in financial management and internal financial control systems;
- To initiate and take necessary actions to collect funds of and for the African Union;
- To control budget execution and process payments;
- To invest excess liquidity as authorized;
- To facilitate the conduct of external audit;
- To ensure effective implementation of Financial Rules and Regulations;
- To ensure safe custody of all liquid Assets of the Union ;
- To ensure prompt recovery of all receivables owed to the Union ;
- To produce periodic financial and budget execution reports and annual financial statements, in accordance with Financial Rules and Regulations

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**Mr. Mandla Madonsela**

**4. DIRECTORATE FOR STRATEGIC  
POLICY PLANNING, MONITORING  
AND EVALUATION, INTER-  
NATIONAL COOPERATION AND  
RESOURCE MOBILISATION**

**Mandate**

- develop and maintain constructive and productive institutional relationship between Africa and the rest of the World as well as to coordinate the mobilisation of extra budgetary resources.
- Ensure interdepartmental coordination in strategic planning, for continuous monitoring and evaluation of programme outputs against action plans, as well as to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of programmes in realizing organizational goals and objectives.
- provide and maintain research and statistical services that will cater for the needs of the entire Commission, other Organs of the Union, RECs as well as Member States.

**Core Functions:**

- prepare rules and procedures for Policy formulation, coordination and evaluation;
- promote internal best practices concerning strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation;
- survey and propose overall operational priorities of the Commission;
- assist Directorates and Offices to develop strategic planning skills;
- organise coordination meetings on policy formulation and strategic planning;
- lead and provide support for sectoral research projects, and ensure their effective implementation;
- develop and manage a Research and Statistics Services for the Union;
- prepare the Annual Report of the Commission;
- produce an approved annual statement on general orientations and priorities relating to operational and administrative programmes and activities;
- propose training programmes relating to programme designing and programme coordination;
- ensure that Statistics Unit is easily accessible to all Organs and the Member States and able to provide updated statistical information.
- design and implement monitoring and evaluation procedures for assessing programme achievements and programme effectiveness
- strengthen existing relations and develop relations with other World regions;
- seek new areas of cooperation with international partners;
- promote a positive image of Africa within the international arena;
- popularise the African Union and market its programmes and activities;
- initiate, develop and manage policy for international cooperation and resource mobilisation;
- coordinate and develop strategies for resource mobilization;
- coordinate the process of proposal and project formulation;
- coordinate the process of project and programmes monitoring and evaluation;
- develop outline for progress reports;
- initiate, develop and manage strategies for sustainability, self-financing, income generation and investment;

- To facilitate logistical support to coordinate inter-action with partners.

## 5. DIRECTORATE OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

### Mandate

To develop, plan and conduct activities designed to provide information about the AU, and to promote increased awareness about its aims and activities through various information tools and mechanisms.

### Core Functions

- serve as the focal point for disseminating information and act as the spokesperson for the Commission;
- draft news releases, correspondence or other information publications, and assist with the distribution of information materials;
- manage, formulate and coordinate the development and implementation of outreach as well as advocacy programmes for the Commission;
- establish and maintain lines of communication with constituencies, NGOs, policy institutions, academia, foundations and associations, as well as identify, and coordinate action on opportunities to foster support for the objectives and activities of the Organisation;
- formulate and advise on promotional strategies for press conferences, meetings and other activities planned for the outreach and advocacy programmes;
- organise the research and drafting of materials related to issue-oriented campaigns and events;
- ensure the development and maintenance of the website as well as relevant automated databases;
- provide editorial advice, statements, speeches and replies to frequently asked and anticipated questions for use by senior management;
- serve as focal point for relations with, and support for, departments and programmes on communication and public information strategies and information dissemination.
- co-ordinate the implementation of the decisions of the meetings of the African Ministers of Information
- explore the possibility of establishing and managing a television and radio station for the African Union an African Union radio, TV and newspaper.

## 6. OFFICE OF THE INTERNAL AUDITOR

### Mandate

To ensure that the Financial Rules and Procedures of the African Union are sound, efficient and implemented accordingly.

### Core functions

- ascertain the completeness, authenticity and proper maintenance of the Commission's financial records, in accordance with its regulations, rules, policies and procedures;
- review, by examination, inquiry and observation, the Commission's financial control systems, including those for safeguarding assets and preventing and detecting fraud and theft, in order to determine whether additional procedures might be required;
- obtain sufficient reliable evidence to constitute a reasonable basis for audit conclusions on the effectiveness of controls and the degree of compliance with them, using

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discussion, observation, inspection and analytical review techniques;

- record the planning, supervision and conduct of audits and controls systems review, the evidence relied upon and the reasons for any significant audit decisions taken;
- report conclusions regarding operational efficiency, effectiveness, and recommend improvements in control systems or other action considered desirable;
- propose and implement internal auditing policies, rules and procedures for the Commission of the African Union;
- prepare and implement annual auditing programme;
- liaise and cooperate with External Auditors;
- prepare and submit an annual report of audited activities, comprising recommendations made and reactions thereon;
- draw the attention of Programme Managers to required improvements;
- prepare a report on each audit mission or activity and to submit it to the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson and as and when appropriate, to other Commissioners;
- undertake any special mission and conduct any investigation as and when requested by the Executive Council and/or the Chairperson.

## 7. MEDICAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

### Mandate

The AU Medical Services Directorate under the Bureau of the Deputy Chairperson is an outpatient polyclinic that provides curative, preventive, promotive and acute care/observation ser-

vices to the AU staff and registered dependents, AU Consultants, African Diplomats accredited to Ethiopia and the AU, AU Delegates and Consultants. It also administers the Medical Assistance Plan and /or Medical Insurance within the AU Commission and Regional Offices.

### Core Functions

The AU Medical Services Directorate provides:

- continuing, comprehensive full-person curative, health promotive and preventive services for employees and dependents of the AU, African diplomats in Addis Ababa and delegates to AU Meetings.
- Medical coverage to participants during AU conferences, meetings and summits.
- Medical examinations for pre-employment and assessment for AU Commission, biennial medical assessment of AU personnel prior to renewal
- Technical assistance in planning, running and maintaining health services for AU Peace Keeping Missions.

## 8. PROTOCOL SERVICES UNIT

### Mandate

To provide protocol services to the Commission and other Organs of the AU, such as privileges, immunities, ceremonial and consular services.

### Core Functions

- develop and maintain rules and procedures relating to protocol services, including the implementation of the Host Agreement;
- continuously keep staff of the Commission informed of the rules and protocol procedures ;

## AUC DEPARTMENTS HEADED BY COMMISSIONERS

### 1. PEACE AND SECURITY DEPARTMENT

The Peace and Security Department (PSD) of the Commission of the African Union (AU) provides support to the efforts aimed at promoting peace, security and stability on the Continent. Currently, the PSD activities focus on the following:

- implementation of the Common African Defence and Security Policy (CADSP);
- operationalization of the Continental Peace and Security Architecture as articulated by the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the AU, including the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) and the African Standby Force (ASF);
- support to the efforts to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts;
- promotion of programmes for the structural prevention of conflicts, including through the implementation of the AU Border Programme (AUBP);
- implementation of the AU's Policy Framework on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD); and
- coordination, harmonization and promotion of peace and security programmes in Africa, including with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs)/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RMs), the United Nations and other relevant international organisations and partners.

The Department comprises four (4) Divisions. These are:

**The Conflict Management Division (CMD)**, which focuses on the operationalization of some of the aspects of the African Peace and Security Architecture (Continental Early Warning System – CEWS, the Panel of the Wise, the Memorandum of Understanding - MoU - between the AU and the RECs/RMs. The CMD supports and coordinates activities relating to conflict prevention and management, as well as to PCRD. The CMD supervises and coordinates the work of the AU Liaison Offices on the ground.

**The Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD)**, which works towards the operationalization of the African Standby Force (ASF) and the MSC, including the elaboration of relevant policy documents and the coordination with relevant African structures and AU partners. The PSOD plans, mounts, manages and supports AU peace support operations.

**The Peace and Security Council Secretariat**, which provides the operational and administrative support required by the PSC, to enable it and its subsidiary bodies to perform their functions effectively. The Secretariat acts as the builder and custodian of the institutional memory on the work of the PSC and facilitates its interaction with other organisations/institutions on issues of peace and security.

**The Defence and Security Division (DSD)**, which addresses long-term cross-cutting security issues. The DSD is in charge of issues relating to arms control and disarmament, counter-terrorism and other strategic security issues, including security sector reform.

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## Department of Peace and Security

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### Recent Activities

- The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union Visits Mogadishu
- AMISOM Delivers Donated Food To IDP Camps in Mogadishu
- Signing of an MOU between AUC and the Eastern Africa Standby Force Coordination Mechanism to deploy personnel to AMISOM.
- Held technical workshop on the Challenges ahead and support to AMISOM with regards to building on recent achievements in Mogadishu to further peace and security in Somalia
- the African Union Liaison Office in Sudan (AULOS-Juba) handed over an Agro-based project in Western Equatoria State
- AMISOM signed an agreement with Somali Women Development Center (SWDC) to launch a quick humanitarian impact project
- AMISOM concluded police training to help build security in Mogadishu
- Signing of a Protocol with Chinese Government on Support of AMISOM
- MISOM held a Roundtable on Enhancing Respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in the implementation of its mandate.
- the Director of the department briefed on Developments in the Republic of Guinea.
- The PSC reviewed the situation in Niger, Libya, Cote de Voire, Somalia, Sudan, Egypt and Tunisia

## 2. DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS

The Department of Political Affairs has remained the core department in the Organization of Africa Unity/African Union since its inception in 1963. It is be-

lieved that its core functions relating to Democratization, Governance, Human Rights and the rule of Law, if managed well and successfully implemented at the level of Member States, will prevent conflicts and promote sustainable peace and development on the continent.

The mandate of the department is to contribute to the emergence of a political environment, within and among African countries, as well as at the international level, that is conducive to bringing about sustainable development and accelerating the economic integration of the continent. To that effect, the department plays a prominent role in promoting, facilitating, coordinating and encouraging democratic principles and the rule of law, respect of Human Rights, the participation of the civil society in the development process of the continent, and the achievement of durable solutions for addressing humanitarian crisis.

### Objectives

- Advocate for and assist in ensuring that all African countries respect Human Rights;
- Work towards the emergence of democratic institutions and sustained popular participation throughout the continent;
- Encourage transparency and accountability in public affairs, political, economic and cultural areas with a greater involvement of the civil society and the private sector;
- Devise ways and means of finding durable solutions for problems of refugees and addressing the causes and symptoms of humanitarian crisis;
- To monitor election processes on the continent.

The aim of the programme is to:

- Ensure compliance by Member States to already agreed upon commitments in political areas;
- Facilitate Inter-African cooperation in Political Affairs;
- Strengthen and consolidate existing institutions in the political field;
- Consolidate and encourage adoption of agreements and institutions and set-up new democratic institutions;
- Develop common political positions and mobilize international support for the African Political agenda.

### Core Functions

- develop common positions in the Political Field for use in International Negotiations;
- monitor the implementation of common policies by Member States;
- prepare reports for monitoring and tracking progress on democratization, good governance and electoral processes;
- disseminate reports and share best practices;
- develop an effective early warning system for predicting population displacements;
- gauge the socio-political impact of international developments on Africa;
- develop and monitor policy on popular participation in the activities of the Union;
- monitor the implementation of International Humanitarian Law by Member States;
- monitor the situation and flow of refugees and displaced persons in Africa; and
- Collaborate with CSSDCA and NEPAD to ensure harmonization of activities.

The department is composed of two divi-

sions:

1. *Democracy, Governance, Human Rights and Elections Division*
2. *Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees and Displaced Persons Division*

### Recent Activities

- In 2011 sent election observation missions to Uganda, Djibouti, Chad, Benin, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, and Cape Verde; and reported accordingly.
- Issued the One African Voice Call on the Humanitarian Situation in the Horn of Africa
- facilitated Conference for the Horn of Africa in support for the victims of drought and famine in the Horn of Africa
- facilitated special Emergency Assistance Fund for Drought and Famine in Africa Approved Emergency Relief Assistance to Somalia.
- Held Training Seminar for AU Election Observation
- Engaged partners in Dialogue with AU on Shared Values - Democracy and Governance
- Held Focus Group on the Support Study of the European Union Governance Facility and related Incentive Tranche.
- Convened the African Union Regional Consultative Meeting on Implementation of the Outcomes of the AU Special Summit on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa
- Facilitated provision of humanitarian assistance to Member States most affected by the problem of forced displacement
- Held the African Union Convention for IDP'S: A Shared Aspiration of Making Africa a Better Place.

### Department of Political Affairs

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## Department of Infrastructure and Energy

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### Head

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- Urged the African Union call for Member States to Ratify the Convention for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa.
- Took part in the High Level Segment of the Sixteenth Session of the Human Rights Council, Geneva, 2nd March 2011.
- Sent AU Assessment Mission in the Republic of Zimbabwe

### 3. DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY

The major areas of responsibility for the Department of Infrastructure and Energy are Transport, Communications, Tourism and Energy. It is composed of two divisions, namely,

1. *Division of Infrastructure and Tourism dealing with transport, communications and tourism*
2. *Division of Energy*

The Department enables the Commission to play its main role of harmonising and promoting sound development policies, strategies and programmes in infrastructure and energy sectors in Africa.

In that regard, the Department functions through an elaborate cooperation mechanism put in place by the Union in coordinating and facilitating the work of the various stakeholders in its areas of responsibility in the continent. The network of relations in infrastructure and energy programmes extends to partner organisations like the ADB and the UN-ECA, the NEPAD Secretariat, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the relevant specialised technical agencies of the Union and other African and international technical organisations. The institutional arrangements utilised for this purpose include the sectoral specialised technical committees (STCs) and the specialised technical agencies (STAs) frameworks.

In carrying out its functions, the Depart-

ment is guided by the mission and objectives of the African Union in the area of infrastructure and energy as outlined hereunder:

### Mission

To promote collective efforts, at sub-regional, regional and continental levels, for the accelerated development of infrastructure and energy sectors with a view to enhancing growth and integration of African economies.

### Objectives

- To harmonise policies and strategies for the expansion, improvement and modernisation of infrastructure and energy facilities and services;
- To advise Member States through formulation of continental policies and strategies
- To coordinate and facilitate the formulation and implementation of regional and continental infrastructure and energy programmes;
- To promote joint improvement of technical, technological and managerial capacities;
- To facilitate the improvement of safety, security and environmental protection in relation to infrastructure and energy activities; and
- To promote development of tourism in the continent.

### Programme Orientation

The programme pursued by the Department is focused on achieving a set of priorities relating to the outlined objectives and realities on the ground. The current period is marked by accelerated change of roles in matters of ownership, management, regulation, resource mobilisation and operational modalities in infrastructure and energy activities. In that regard, commercial interests and, in particular, the private sector are gradu-



ally being accorded an enhanced role alongside the public sector in the management of the economic and social infrastructure with the major aim of accelerating sustained growth in those areas. The complexity brought about by the role adjustment is posing a great challenge to the Member States of the African union and their regional economic communities (RECs) economically, socially and politically.

In cognisance of the aforementioned situation, the Department is endeavouring to formulate and implement programmes that would enable the AU member States to adapt to the emerging challenges and employ the most current strategies and state-of-the-art technologies to bring about sustainable development in their infrastructure and energy networks. To that effect, the following issues are on the priority programme of the Directorate:

- Liberalisation of infrastructure and energy markets;
- Utilisation of dynamic financing schemes for infrastructure development;
- Privatisation of infrastructure and energy undertakings like the railway networks, airports, ports, telecommunications networks, pipeline networks, etc.;
- Promotion of ICT development and utilisation;
- Capacity building in terms of acquisition of skills and technologies; and
- Promotion of sound and responsible policies regarding the environment, safety and security matters as they relate to infrastructure and energy activities.
- Promotion of a unified telecommunications numbering area in Africa.

#### Recent activities

- AUC- German Development Bank (KfW) held a meeting on the Geo-

thermal Risk Mitigation Facility (GRMF).

- German International Cooperation Agency pledged 2 Million Euros to modernize Iaida
- Held the third meeting of the Steering Committee of the Conference of the African Union Ministers in Charge of Communication & Information Technologies (CITMC).
- announced recommendations on Achieving Sustainable Hydropower Development in Africa
- Held Joint Media Advisory “Defining the Role of Hydropower in Africa’s Sustainable Development” Hydropower for Sustainable Development.
- Held a Validation Workshop for Interim Reports of Pre-Feasibility Studies of Missing Links on two Transport Corridors: Dakar - Djibouti and Djibouti – Libreville.
- Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the African Union Commission and the African Airlines Association.

#### 4. DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Social Affairs cover wide-ranging issues pertaining to the organisation of society and relations between individual people and communities, and between communities and the state. Governments are mostly expected to provide organised social services or welfare to assist and/ or give advice to communities. The extent and level of these services are indicative of the standard of living or socio-economic development. Thus, Social Affairs form a pattern that guides human actions and interactions, which in turn influence culture or propel dynamism in society.

#### Department of Social Affairs

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## Objective

Generally, the Department has set its general objective as:

- promoting and intensifying collective efforts for accelerated and sustained development of social services in Africa, with a view to improving the well-being of all communities; as a basic strategy for socio-economic development. Endeavours to achieve this are based on the mandate provided by global and continental commitments aimed at promotion of socio economic development of the world in general and Africa in particular.
- Coordinating, intensifying and monitoring efforts in Member States to promote the social well-being of all Africans while retaining cultural values and knowledge.

The specific objectives and programmes of the Department of Social are further elaborated through its five divisions, namely,

1. *Division of Health, Nutrition and Population*
2. *Division of HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis*
3. *Division of Social Welfare, Vulnerable Groups and Drug Control*
4. *Division of Labour, Employment and Migration*
5. *Division of Culture and Sport*

## General Programme Focus

- Initiating action and harmonising the formulation of strategies and programmes for the betterment of the lives of African populations.
- Advocacy to and sensitisation of African leadership on major social challenges facing the continent and which require urgent attention.
- Advocacy and sensitisation of policymakers in enacting and imple-

menting national legislation for protection and promotion of the rights of disadvantaged population groups.

- Collaboration with AU partners in promotion of a better welfare policy in Africa.
- Promotion of regional and international cooperation in social strategic planning and implementation of social policies and programmes. Bringing African together to speak with a common voice on matters of common concern in relevant international for a.
- Encouraging Member States to implement and evaluate collective commitments pledged with a view to improving the lot of African Population;
- Awareness-raising among other AU sectors and other stakeholders on various social issues to promote cooperation and collaboration in cross-cutting matters
- Putting in place a mechanism for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of policies and programmes.

## Programme Goals

In collaboration with Member States and relevant partners, the AU focuses on coordination and intensifying efforts aimed at:

- creating a supportive environment for development of the social sector promoting, protecting and facilitating the development of social welfare
- mobilising and optimising the use of available resources
- raising awareness among communities and leadership at a levels about major challenges facing Africa and how to reverse these
- capacity building (human and institutional)

### Department of Social Affairs

Head  
Health, HIV/Aids, Nutrition Division  
Mr. Thomas John Bisika

Head  
Division Labour, Employment and Migration  
Ms. Katrina Liswani

- Promotion of access to social services by all communities
- intersectional, regional and international cooperation
- preparedness, response and mitigation of emergencies.

### Recent Activities

- Held a Consultative and Experience Sharing Forum on Remittances Leverage for Development.
- Operationalizing the Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking In Human Beings Especially Women and Children through communication, information and awareness raising tools for prevention and protection against trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants
- Held the Fifth Session of African Union Conference of Ministers of Health Windhoek under the theme: The Impact of Climate Change on Health and Development in Africa.
- Department's experts took part in CSO meeting on HIV prevention, treatment, care and support
- Held in Yaounde the 8th Ordinary Session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission of the African Union .

## 5. DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

This Department is concerned with the development of human resources in Member States through education and training programmes, as well as the utilisation of Science and Technology for development on the Continent.

### Mandate

The mandate of the Department is the promotion and coordination of Human Resources Development and Science and Technology policies, particularly the de-

velopment of ICT for the social and economic development of Africa. These policies will be to enhance the integration process through programmes and activities that are perceived by Member States as reflective of their priority developmental objectives and political stability.

### Objective

The overall objective of this Department is the establishment of priority and specific programmes that can be implemented in an effective manner in order to achieve regional integration and economic development. To achieve this objective, it is essential to:

- Establish relevant institutional linkages and essential mechanisms for cooperation and co-ordination in the areas of Education, Training, Science and Technology;
- Evolve appropriate systems for human resource development and skills acquisition;
- Harmonise operational procedures and mechanisms for information management and exchange;
- Promote the involvement of youth in the development process on the Continent.

### Programme Goals

The programme thrust of the Department will be the promotion, co-ordination and the strengthening of Science and Technology programmes for acceleration of the development of Africa. The new Science and Technology agenda will emphasise the development of human resources for the creation of a Science and Technology based infrastructure. Adequate attention will be given to the emerging new Sciences and Technologies as well as Intellectual Property Rights and indige-

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nous knowledge promotion. The goals will include establishing appropriate systems for human resource development and skills acquisition in the areas of education, vocational training, literacy and culture.

The vast range of programmes in this Department are further detailed in the three divisions:

1. Education Division
2. Human Resources and Youth
3. Science, Technology and ICT

### Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology

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### Recent Activities

- Launched the African Science Technology and Innovation Indicators (ASTII) Initiative Workshop to Launch ASTII Phase 2 and the African Innovation Outlook Series 23-25 May 2011, United Nations Conference Centre, Addis Ababa.
- Held a Meeting of the African Education Ministers and concluded key policy documents relating to the PAU Project
- Held the First Extra-Ordinary Session of the Conference of Minister of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF IV)
- Discussed the establishment of Pan-African University
- Held a range of activities on Youth Empowerment for Africa's Development .
- Signing of an MOU between the African Union and the Organization of One Laptop Per Child

## 7. DEPARTMENT OF RURAL ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURE

The Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) was established with the objectives of promot-

ing agricultural and rural development and ensuring food security for Africans, and achieving sustainable development and improved livelihoods for the population, and ensuring effective protection and development of the African environment underpinned by sound environmental and natural resources management including disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change. It has the following vision and mission statements.

### AUC-DREA's Vision is:

“A transformed African agriculture with diverse and sound environment that provides the basis for continental sustainable growth and prosperity, food security and poverty reduction, reinforced by prudent management of the natural resources including proactive responses to climate change”

### AUC-DREA's Mission is:

“To work with Member States, RECs, African Institutions, Parliamentarians, Traditional and Religious Leaders, Women, Youth and Children, Academia, Researchers, Civil Society Groups, Private Sector and Development Partners to strengthen the agricultural sector, rural economies and the environment in order to improve the livelihoods of the African people and ensure poverty eradication”

The Commissioner responsible for rural economy and agriculture represents the department and provides overall leadership, while the Director provides management oversight and coordinates the



activities and resources organized under three divisions and six regional technical agencies. The three Divisions are: Agriculture and Food Security; Environment and Natural Resources; and Rural Economy. The Divisions are led by Heads of Division and staffed with Senior Policy Officers, Policy Officers and support staff.

AUC-DREA's regional technical agencies, located in various regions of Africa, address specialized issues and needs of Africa. These agencies are: the Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR) based in Nairobi, Kenya; the Inter African Phyto-Sanitary Council (IAPSC) based in Yaoundé, Cameroon; the Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (PANVAC) based in Debre Zeit, Ethiopia; the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Control and Eradication Campaign (PATTEC) based at the AUC in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; the Semi-arid Food Grain Research and Development (SAFGRAD) based in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; and the Fouta Djallon Highlands Integrated Natural Resources Project (FDH) based in Conakry, Guinea. In addition, linked to the Department are two specialized projects, the African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) both linked to the Division of Environment and Natural Resources.

AUC-DREA and its regional technical agencies provide the needed political leadership; facilitate policy coherence, harmonization and coordination required in addressing the challenges related to agriculture, rural development, environment and natural resources. Together with the NEPAD Agency, RECs, Member States, and other key institu-

tions, it strives to address the strategic issues by capitalizing on the opportunities and developments toward achieving AU's goals for its Member States.

## 7. DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

### Economic Integration and Regional Cooperation Division

#### Objectives

The division has the following objectives:

- Ensure the implementation of the Abuja treaty, establishing the African Economic Community (AEC), through coordination and harmonization of activities of the RECs, which are the pillars of the AEC;
- Follow-up the implementation of the relevant Africa Union Assembly Declarations and Decisions on integration, especially the Syrte Declaration on the acceleration of the integration process;
- Identify ways and means of rationalizing the activities of the RECs;
- Follow-up and monitor the integration process in Africa;

#### Activities

The division undertakes various activities/programmes and has regular publications.

#### *Minimum Integration Programme (MIP)*

The genesis of the MIP emanated from a proposal made by the AU Commission to the Third Conference of African Ministers in charge of Integration (COMAI III) held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in May 2008 which favorably welcomed the proposal. The Chief Executives of the AU, RECs, UNECA and ADB, met in July 2008, in Sharm El-Sheikh, in Egypt and have defined the practical modalities of the Pro-

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gramme as well the necessary benchmarks for its elaboration. The Programme has been elaborated by the AU Commission in close cooperation with the REC, and submitted to the Fourth COMAI held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in May 2009 which adopted it as a "dynamic strategic continental framework for the integration process". It has been endorsed by the Assembly of the Union in Syrte, Libya, in July 2009.

The MIP is conceived in three phases of four years each in accordance with the AU Strategic Plan and structured around the following eleven priority sectors: Free movement of persons, goods, services and capital; Peace and security; Infrastructure and Energy; Agriculture; Trade; Industry; Investment; Statistics; Political Affairs; Science and Technology and Social Affairs. These sectors are subdivided in relevant sub-sectors. The AU Commission, the RECs and others stakeholders in the integration have been requested by the Ministers in Yaoundé to come in each sector with implementable and bankable priority activities to be implemented during the phases enshrined in the MIP.

Following the adoption of the MIP, the AUC was requested by the African Ministers of Integration to organise sectoral meetings to elaborate the MIP Action Plan. Two sectoral meetings were held in Nairobi, Kenya and Lilongwe, Malawi in May and June 2010 respectively.

During these meetings priority activities were identified within the sectors / sub-priority areas below: Free movement of persons and migration, trade, industry, investment, statistics, political affairs, social affairs, gender, human resources and capacity building.

The MIP action Plan is composed of objectives and key performance indicators for the priorities identified. Periods of implementation and sources of funding were also identified to ensure that the selected priorities in the MIP Action Plan are achievable and have the re-

quired funding.

### *Status of Integration in Africa (SIA)*

The SIA is an annual report which contains information on the activities and progress made by each Regional Economic Community (REC). It underlines the status of each sector which the RECs are pursuing in order to achieve their set objectives.

Integration stage of each REC:

- ECOWAS: Free Trade Area
- COMESA: Free Trade Area
- ECCAS: Free Trade Area
- SADC: Free Trade Area
- CEN-SAD: Free Trade Area
- EAC: Customs Union
- IGAD: Coordination and Harmonisation of activities
- UMA: Coordination and Harmonisation of activities
- UMA: Coordination and Harmonisation of activities

### **Economic Policies and Research Division**

#### *A. Financial Institutions*

The Constitutive Act of the African Union provides for setting up of the three African financial institutions, being: the African Central Bank, the African Monetary Fund and the African Investment Bank. The establishment of these three financial institutions has been set as a priority by the African Heads of State and Government. The purpose of the financial institutions is to foster economic integration and development.

#### *African Central Bank*

The African Central Bank will establish a common currency and enforce its credibility, in addition to conducting monetary policy in the continent. The process of establishing the African Central Bank is conducted in consultation with the Association of the African Central Banks (AACB).

### *African Investment Bank (AIB)*

The aim of the AIB is to develop the continent through investment in public and private development projects intended to advance regional integration. The Protocol and Statute establishing the African Investment Bank (AIB) were adopted by the African Union Assembly in February and July 2009, respectively. Fifteen (15) ratifications are required for the legal instruments to enter into force. The AIB shall have an initial capital stock of 25 billion dollars of which 75% is allocated to Member States and 25% to African private sector. The initial capital stock shall be divided into paid-in shares (\$4,000,000,000), and callable shares (\$21,000,000,000).

### *African Monetary Fund*

The creation of the AMF would provide a veritable platform for the design and implementation of a common direction for the structural and economic reform initiatives of the African economies. In this regard, the AMF would facilitate the harmonization of monetary, exchange rate, financial system and trade policies of member states towards the achievement of collective macroeconomic stability in the region and output efficiency. The AMF would further provide a channel for coordinated surveillance and effective analysis of economic developments and its implication for the regional goals and objectives – thereby forestalling systemic crisis of severe consequences.

### *B. Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance*

The Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa jointly organize the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development annually. The Conference is organized around a theme agreed by the two institutions or at the request of the Ministers.

### *C. Recent Economic issues events*

### *Committee of Ten Meetings*

### *(Communiqués)*

The Committee of Ten African Ministers of Finance and Central Bank Governors was set up in Tunis, Tunisia, in November 2008 to prepare an African response to the global financial and economic crisis. Members of the Committee of Ten are: Algeria, Botswana, Cameroon, Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, the Central Bank of West African States, and the Central Bank of Central African States. Several meetings have been held since November 2008 in Cape Town, Abuja and Washington D.C.

### *G8/G20 Meetings*

The Commission participates in G8 and G20 meeting regularly at the invitation of the host countries, as part of the African Union delegation. The G8 and G20 discuss issues that are of relevance to African countries and an African position is usually presented at these fora.

### *Millennium Development Goals (Annual Reports)*

The African Union Heads of State and Government requested the Commission, in collaboration with the African Development Bank and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, to report on progress made in Africa towards attainment of the Millennium Development Goals on an annual basis. Several reports have been prepared annually by the three institutions, and most recently joined by the United Nations Development Programme-Regional Bureau for Africa.